

Please amend the following paragraphs of the specification in the manner indicated:

[0004] RosettaNet (<http://www.rosettanet.org>) is an industrial consortium which aims to make this process cheaper and more straightforward, by using XML (extensible Mark-up Language) messaging technology transported over the World Wide Web. It does this by standardising the format, content and sequence of messages between partners for a variety of possible interactions which companies can use in B2B relationships. Hence, companies do not need to go through a lengthy negotiation to specify the way in which they are going to interact. Instead, they simply need to agree on which standard interaction to use. Standardisation also speeds up the development process: products such as WebMethods Trading Networks Server include software libraries and XML templates supporting RosettaNet interactions.

[0049] The present invention eases the B2B integration process, and overcomes in large part the shortfalls of RosettaNet (even with Next Generation PIPs) outlined above. The present invention makes use of XML Schema to define and validate the syntactic constraints on PIP documents. It also makes use of a semantic mark-up language for Web resources such as DAML+OIL (see <http://www.daml.org> 2001) or OWL (Web Ontology Language--see <http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/WebOnt>) to define semantic constraints. As will be better seen in the specific description, the semantic mark-up language is used to model: